

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A formulation for desensitizing skin and hair follicles comprising:
  - a therapeutically effective amount of a topical anesthetic;
  - a solubilizer for solubilizing said topical anesthetic;
  - homopolymers;
  - copolymers; and
  - plant extract oils.
2. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 1, further comprising a thickener.
3. (Original) A formulation according to claim 1, claim 2, wherein said thickener is replaced by water further comprising water.
4. (Original) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said topical anesthetic is at least one member selected from the group consisting of benzocaine, lidocaine, and prolocaine.
5. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 4, ~~where~~ wherein said topical anesthetic is benzocaine.
6. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said solubilizer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of diethyl sebacate, diethyl adipate, diisopropyl adipate, dimethyl molonate, dibutyl sebacate, dibutyl adipate, diethyl pimelate, diethyl suberate, diethyl azelate, methyl ethyl succinate, and diethyl isosuccinate.
7. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 6, wherein said solubilizer is diethyl sebacate or diethyl adipate.

8. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said homopolymer is either polyethylene glycol or polypropylene glycol.

9. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said copolymer is polyvinylpyrrolidone-hexadecene.

10. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said plant extract oils comprise one or more members of a group consisting of tea tree oil, yling-ying oil, tangerine oil, chamomile oil, jasmine oil, Egyptian musk oil, sandalwood oil, coconut oil, and peppermint oil.

11. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 10, wherein said plant extract oils provide fragrant properties to said oil-based formulation.

12. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein said thickener is white petroleum.

13. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 4, wherein said homopolymer has a ~~molecular weight~~ chain length in the range of about 400 to about 1000.

14. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 5, wherein said copolymer has a molecular weight in the range of about 5000 amu to about 10,000 amu.

15. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 5, wherein said copolymer is present in a range of about 7 to about 10 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.

16. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 4, wherein said homopolymer is present in a range of about 20 to about 25 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.

17. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 10, wherein said plant extract oils are present in a range of about 11 to about 15 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.

18. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 3, wherein said solubilizer is present in a range of about 30 to about 40 weight percent based on the weight of the total formulation.

19. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein said ~~emulsion formulation~~ is a lotion.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of desensitizing the scalp prior to a hair treatment, comprising:

applying a topical anesthetic containing composition to the scalp prior to applying the hair treatment; and

allowing the composition to remain on the scalp ~~a long~~ enough time to desensitize the treated area, ~~;~~ and

wherein the topical anesthetic containing composition contains a therapeutically effective amount of a topical anesthetic.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of desensitizing the skin comprising applying ~~the composition of claim 1~~ to the skin a formulation comprising:

a therapeutically effective amount of a topical anesthetic;

a solubilizer for solubilizing said topical anesthetic;

homopolymers;

copolymers; and

plant extract oils.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of desensitizing a hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp comprising:

applying a topical anesthetic containing composition to the hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp prior to applying a hair treatment;

permitting said composition to remain on the hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp  
thereby desensitizing the hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp; and  
removing said composition from the hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 22, wherein said topical anesthetic  
containing composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a topical anesthetic.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 22, ~~wherein a hair treatment procedure is~~  
~~performed after the composition is removed from the scalp~~ further comprising performing a  
hair treatment procedure to the hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp after the composition is  
applied to the hairy area of the skin and/or the scalp.

25. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein the topical anesthetic is a  
chemical selected from a caine family of chemicals.